

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office action mailed on December 18, 2009 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the amendments to the claims and remarks below.

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 14-24 are currently pending in this application. Claims 14 and 24 have been amended and claim 15 has been canceled. In addition, claim 25 has been added. It is believed that no new matter is added in claims 14, 24, and 25.

With regard to the amendments to claim 14, the subject matter of claim 15 has been incorporated in its entirety. In addition, the opening and closing part has been more clearly pointed out as “opening and closing plate” (401b, 402b) as shown in Figures 10 and 12. Further, the limitation that “the opening and closing plate is without any holes” as shown in Figure 12 has been added.

Claim 24 has been amended merely to correct a typographical error.

The limitation of the “opening and closing device disposed between the filtering device and the rear side of the piston body” in claim 25 is supported by Figure 10.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 14-15, 18-19, and 23 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Ayres (US 3,897,337).

With regard to claim 14 regarding the Ayres reference, Applicant has amended the claim so that the opening and closing plate is without any holes. Ayres' opening and closing plate (diaphragms 36, 38) has several holes in them. Therefore, claim 14 is not anticipated by Ayres at least because every feature of claim 14 is not disclosed by Ayres.

With regard to claim 15 regarding the Ayres reference, Applicant has canceled claim 15 without prejudice.

With regard to claims 18-19 and 23 regarding the Ayres reference, Applicant submits that these claims would be in condition for allowance based on the limitations included in claim 14.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ayres (US 3,897,337) in view of Muto (US 4,685,472).

With regard to claims 16 and 17, Applicant submits that these claims would be in condition for allowance based on the limitations included in claim 14.

Claims 20 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ayres (US 3,897,337) in view of North (US 3,931,018).

With regard to claim 20, Applicant submits that this claim would be in condition for allowance based on the limitations included in claim 14.

Claims 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ayres (US 3,897,337) in view of North (US 3,931,018), and further in view of Harp (US 5,549,816).

With regard to claims 21 and 22, Applicant submits that these claims would be in condition for allowance based on the limitations included in claim 14.

Claims 24 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ayres (US 3,897,337).

With regard to claim 24, Applicant submits that this claim would be in condition for allowance based on the limitations included in claim 14.

Newly Added Claim 25

With regard to claim 25, the references Ayres, Muto, North, Harp or any

combination of the references fails to disclose the limitation of the “opening and closing device disposed between the filtering device and the rear side of the piston body.” Therefore, claim 25 is not anticipated by or obvious in view of Ayres, Muto, North, Harp or any combination of the references at least because every feature of claim 25 is not disclosed by Ayres, Muto, North, Harp or any combination of the references.

For at least the foregoing reasons, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 14-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) or 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested as well as allowance of claim 25. In view of the amendments to the claims and foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectively submitted,

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